

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed December 28, 2006, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on August 7, 2001; and November 24, 2003.

Claims 19-24 were pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. Claims 19 and 20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 21-24 have been amended to better recite the features of the present invention. Accordingly, claims 21-24 are now pending in the present application, all of which are independent. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Paragraph 5 of the Official Action rejects claims 19-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, asserting that the phrase "a fiber with poor dye-affinity such as PBO" is indefinite. In response, claims 19 and 20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 21-24 have been amended to remove the recitation of "poor dye-affinity" and have been amended to recite "a fiber composed of PBO." The Applicant respectfully submits that amended claims 21-24 are definite. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 are in order and respectfully requested.

Paragraph 7 of the Official Action rejects claims 19 and 20 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,233,821 to Weber, Jr. As noted above, claims 19 and 20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; therefore, the anticipation rejections are moot.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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